



International  
Food & Agricultural Trade  
Policy Council



## **Rebalancing the Rights of Importers and Exporters: How to Address Agricultural Export Restrictions?**

Session organized by  
International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council  
&  
CUTS International

At the WTO Public Forum "Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges"  
**Venue: Tuesday 20 September 2011, 14h00-16h00, WTO Building, Room W**

### **Abstract**

Over the past 4 years, food prices repeatedly jumped to “crisis” levels. Over two dozen governments, all from low and middle income countries, have responded with policies that curtail exports of agricultural products in order to promote national food security. Such measures have been shown to trigger further price increases on the world market, and to make world markets a less reliable source of food supplies in both the short and long run.

The existing international trade rules entail few disciplines on export restrictions, and are primarily focused on the rights of exporters. There have been proposals to put into place greater rights for importers, most recently from G-20 agricultural ministers and from the group of low income net food importing countries, as part of the Doha Round negotiations.

This session will examine the motivations behind and impacts of agricultural export restrictions in countries that impose restrictions. The session will also examine the impact of export restrictions on food price volatility and access to food in low-income food importers, in particular in the LDCs.

The session will also explore whether and how international trade disciplines on agricultural export restrictions can be improved. What kinds of rules regarding notification, limitation and special & differential treatment should the international community agree to with regard to agricultural export restrictions? A panel of ambassadors and policy advisors will examine the political factors that must be taken into

account when advocating for rules governing export restrictions. The ultimate aim is to speed up the process towards much-needed progress on this dossier.

**Contributors to the session are:**

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Centre for Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh) and IPC member;

Dr. Dmitri Rylko, Institute for Agricultural Market Studies (Russia);

Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS-CITEE (India);

The session is moderated by Mr. Nicolas Imboden, IDEAS Center (Switzerland) and IPC member;

Perspectives are invited from several ambassadors to the WTO, and Arancha Gonzalez, the WTO Director General's chief of staff, as well as from other participants at the session.

**INVITATION**

**Panel members, speakers and session participants are cordially invited  
by CropLife and IPC for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres**

**Venue: 18:30 hrs on September 20th at Hotel Kempinski, Room Lemman AB**

**Hotel Kempinski is located on the shores of Lake Geneva,  
a stone's throw away from the Old Town, Flower Clock and the UN.**

**19, Quai du Mont-Blanc**

**Rsvp, with [tsachse@sidley.com](mailto:tsachse@sidley.com)**





## Rebalancing the Rights of Importers and Exporters: How to Address Agricultural Export Restrictions?

Session organized by  
The International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) and CUTS International

At the WTO Public Forum "Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges"  
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### Part I Importers' and exporters' views on export restrictions

Welcome & introduction to the session

"The need to rebalance trade rules in the face of food price volatility" *Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS International (India)*

"The LDCs perspective on export restrictions" *Debapriya Bhattacharya, Centre for Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh) and IPC Member*

"A domestic view on Russian grain export restrictions" *Dmitri Rylko, Institute for Agricultural Market Studies (Russia)*

Views from the WTO Secretariat *Aranca Gonzalez, Chief of Staff of DG Lamy*

### Part II The way forward

Perspectives on more effective disciplines on export restrictions under WTO rules from the Policy panel, comprising of representatives to the WTO:

- Mr. Mokhtar Warida, First Secretary at Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Mr. Pieter Gooren, Agricultural Counsellor for the Netherlands at the WTO
- Mr. Valeriy Piatnytskyi - Head of the Ukrainian delegation for participation in negotiations within WTO
- Gregg Young - Minister-Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Mission to the World Trade Organization
- Mr. Yoichi Otobe, Ambassador for Japan at the WTO
- Mauritius (tbc)

Discussion from the floor

## Closing comments

*The discussion is moderated by Mr. Nicolas Imboden, IDEAS Center and IPC member*

### Speaker biographies

**Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya** is the Special Advisor on LDCs at UNCTAD. He is a macro-economist and a public policy analyst, the former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office, World Trade Organization (WTO) and other International Organizations in Geneva, and Bangladesh's Ambassador to Vatican. Prior to his this post, he was the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) – a leading think tank in South Asia. He has earlier worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

**Bipul Chatterjee** is Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, a leading economic policy research, advocacy and networking, non-governmental group with its headquarters in Jaipur, India and offices in Geneva, Hanoi, Nairobi and Lusaka. He has published/edited several books and papers on political economy of trade and development. Recently he has co-edited with Pradeep S. Mehta an anthology titled "Growth and Poverty: The Great Debate". Other than managing trade-related projects, his responsibilities include fundraising, human resource development and knowledge management. He is a Member of the Planning Commission of India's Working Group on Boosting Manufacturing Exports during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, 2012-17.

**Nicholas Imboden** is Executive Director and cofounder of IDEAS Centre. He held senior executive positions at SGS, the regional development banks (ADB, AFDB, IDB) and the EBRD. He was the Swiss negotiator for market access and agriculture during the Uruguay Round negotiations (1987-1992). He has been a member of the Board of the Foundation of the "Institut Universitaire d'Etudes de Développement" (Geneva) and of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Canada. He has also been a member of various Expert Groups of the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and of the UNDP Human Development Report.

**Dr. Dmitri Rylko** is executive director at the Institute for Agricultural Market Studies (IKAR), a Moscow-based consultancy firm engaged in analysis of the domestic Russian and global agricultural and food systems. Over his professional carrier, Dmitry has worked as consultant for international institutions and private entities in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. A decade ago he conceptualized the "new agricultural operators in Black Sea FSU countries". In the 2010/11 marketing year he was member of the ad hoc working group on drought by the Russian government. Recently he assumed membership of the working group by the government of Russia on the development of new Agricultural Program, 2013-2020. He also has ongoing assignments with FAO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## **About IPC**

IPC promotes the role of trade in creating a more open, equitable, productive and sustainable global food and agricultural system to meet the world's growing needs. Its mission is to make pragmatic trade policy recommendations to solve the major challenges that are facing the global food & agricultural system in the 21st century.

IPC convenes influential policymakers, agribusiness executives, farm and civil society leaders, and academics from around the world in order to clarify complex issues, foster broad stakeholder participation in policy deliberations, and build consensus around pragmatic policy recommendations

IPC's members are...

...A diverse group of global agribusiness executives, distinguished policymakers, NGO representatives,

farm leaders, and academics;

...Committed to the importance of an open, equitable, productive, and sustainable global food & agricultural system;

...Actively involved in IPC Committees and Working Groups;

...Well connected to their respective national and international networks.

IPC's publications, including recent material on food price volatility and export restrictions are available at <http://www.agritrade.org>

## **About CUTS**

CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) began its journey in 1983 in Rajasthan, from a rural development communication initiative, a wall newspaper Gram Gadar (Village Revolution). This monthly is published regularly and has been instrumental in providing a forum for the oppressed classes to get justice. On seeing Gram Gadar, Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD (1995-2004) observed: "It confirmed my view that often the simple lack of awareness lies at the root of so much misery".

CUTS Centre for International Trade; Economics & Environment (CITEE) is a programme centre of CUTS International, a civil society organisation dealing with issues of trade, regulation and governance, headquartered in Jaipur, India, with presence all over the developing world and important centres in the developed world.

In the wake of trade liberalisation in the developing world, CUTS CITEE was established to carry out research, advocacy and networking in regard to WTO issues, regional economic cooperation and relationship between trade and development. Its aim is to effectively provide a voice for Southern civil society on these issues.

Information on CUTS CITEE's work program and publications can be found at <http://www.cuts-citee.org/Index.htm>